

Faith Talk

Faith United Church of Christ

August 2023

Tripoli, IA

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We pray for the healing and well-being of these beloved children of God...

Lisa Chapin	Bonnie Travers
Mary Ann Meyer	Nadine Schnurstein
Delores Meier	Keith Selberg
Scott Selberg	Joan Matthias
Marlene Homeister	

We pray for members and friends of the church serving in the military...

Brandon Burrows	Keenan Gienau
Matthew Coulthard	Colton Henry
Kristian Heidemann	Alyssa Jones
Austin Kingsbury	Kaitlyn Kime
Chazten Wells	

We hold in prayer our members in home...

Darlene Bahlmann	Velda Lynch
Jean Bentley	Orlyn Milius
Verlyn & Phyllis Buls	

We mourn with Kara, Conrad, Delaney, Caleb, and Taylor on the passing of Kara's mom, Jackie. We join with all who love her in giving thanks to God for her new life in God's heavenly realm.

We continue to pray for the families and communities where lives and sense of safety have been shattered.

For many of us, church is a combination of childhood expectations ("but Mom, can't I just sleep in this Sunday?")...love-filled celebrations ("I now pronounce you husband and wife")...sacred moments ("I baptize you in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit")...and times of mourning ("we hereby entrust this beloved one to your merciful care")...seasoned with a few favorite hymns and all stirred up with memories of candle-lit Christmas Eve services and new Easter morning attire and, of course, yummy potlucks.

But what if that were all gone tomorrow? What if church as you remember it no longer existed? Would you miss it in your life?

Undoubtedly some reading this would feel a forever emptiness in life...some would feel the gap for a bit but discover a way to move on...and some wouldn't experience much of a difference at all.

In which category do you dwell?

Faith United Church of Christ is not alone on this island of lament where voices can be heard crying out, "Where do all the people go on Sunday morning who used to come to church? What do they do with the time they once volunteered to the church? To what are all the financial supporters giving?" However, this is one of those times when the old adage, "misery loves company" does not make it feel better. So, back to my above question. What if church – in particular THIS church – no longer existed? What would be your reaction?

No, we are not in danger of not existing. Far from it. But we are at a crossroads where each person who is a member or faithful friend of Faith UCC must spend some time reflecting on what this church means to them and what they are willing to do to support the ministry and mission of this church.

It's not about the numbers, it's about the love. We don't need to be a mega church to do the work God is calling us to do. The days of a sanctuary filled with Sunday-morning worshipers is simply no longer a reality in most places of worship. Which means, of course, that each person who sees the church as an integral part of life must be willing to make a commitment to ensure that its presence will remain viable. Just like the many other organizations supported by membership – sports boosters...Scouts...4H...veterans groups...country clubs...PTA...fine arts boosters and so many others – we need your talents...we need your time...and yes, we need your treasures. Talent...time...treasures — when was the last time you increased your giving in one or more of those categories?

Together may we fully live fully into the people and church God is calling us to be!

~ Pastor Marilyn

Faith United Church of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
July 10th, 2023

Members in Attendance: Beth Goudschaal, Vicki Oleson, Jerry Lahmann, Kathy Westendorf, Brenda Shinstine, Traci Bahrenfuse, Dave Kirchhoff, Conrad Marsh, Kara Marsh

Also in Attendance via Zoom: Eli Bahrenfuse

Also in Attendance: Pastor Marilyn, Barb Hill

Absent Members: Dean Shinstine, Bonnie Travers

Meeting called to order by Jerry Lahmann

Opening Prayer: Pastor Marilyn.

Approval of the June 5th minutes: Motion by Dave Kirchhoff, to approve as stated, seconded by Brenda Shinstine.

Treasurer Report: Bill received for snow removal, that was unexpected and not budgeted. Motion to approve to pay in installments by Beth Goudschaal seconded by Brenda Shinstine.
Motion by Kara Marsh, to approve June report as stated, seconded by Vicki Oleson.

Trustee Report: While Pastor is out on vacation or away from the office, we will need to determine a backfill to take trash to the curb. Summer Camp staff to clean ed wing and fellowship hall when used for summer camp activities. Will set off bug bombs for insects/spiders due to the warmer weather. Lisa Chapin is out of the office the last week of January and first week of February.

Bell tower completed. Power washed and painted. There are four planks ordered to replace the old ones, trustees or the property committee will complete this work.

Special thanks to Kaitlin Westendorf for painting.

Brian Milius for taking care of the rental on the lift.

Mike and Kathy Westendorf for donating the materials.

The cross still needs painted, it is on the to do list, the rain slowed down what could be done that weekend. Due to the generous donations the project cost \$827.70.

Furnaces are on their last leg. Dave received a quote from Ryan Smith. The quote is for Amana units at 96% efficiency. The quote was received at \$9,500 – for 1 furnace or \$27,000 for all three to be replaced. We would also receive a \$200-\$250 per unit credit with Black Hills taking the total to \$26,400. These units come with a ten-year warranty and all materials, labor and tax included in the price. The council was also discussing the benefits of LP – British thermal units (BTU). There are better rebates and kickbacks when using LP over natural gas.

Alliant offers 30% federal grant for solar energy. Elsamiller Electric puts up solar panels. Requesting a quote. We could have the panels put up at the cemetery, there is also the Ebenezer Grant that we are looking into. More to come next month on this option.

Handout of the budget savings for 2023, approved by the council to share with the congregation for easier access to the savings to the budget.

(Continued)

Elder Report: Ruth Kirchhoff, Jen Dillion and Kathy Westendorf are working on an end of summer social to celebrate the first year of Summer Camp and the children. It will be held August 27th, we will have a special service dedicated to the children and then lunch and activities after church outside in the rear parking lot. All are welcome to come celebrate and volunteer to help with games, grilling or monitoring the children.

Liaison Report: The memorial committee sent out an informational brochure to the congregation on Endowments.

Pastor’s Report: Big thanks to Bonnie Travers and Kathy Westendorf for folding and filling bulletins during recent weeks. Pastor Tyler at Grace is hosting the community worship during Tripoli Days, waiting to hear if there is anything we can help with. Faith UCC is hosting the lunch during Tripoli Days.

Old Business: None

New Business: Eli Bahrenfuse measured for the landscaping, looking into low maintenance plants – will share with Marlene and the committee once final plans are completed.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Beth Goudschaal, seconded by Traci Bahrenfuse, motion carried.

The meeting was closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:

Traci Bahrenfuse

These minutes have not yet been approved by Council

Congregational Meeting
July 16th, 2023

Jerry Lahmann called the meeting to order.

Revisions to the budget were made to improve the original budget shared in January. The council handed out the June budget, and the cost savings handout.

Jay Renard asked, “With the current standing and projections the budget shows a savings of approximately \$12,000?” Jerry Lahmann responded that if the council achieves the goals laid out in the cost savings, this improved budget is a savings of approximately \$13,000. Currently, with the June year-to-date budget we are \$6,774.00 below the budgeted figure shared at the beginning of the year.

Roger Goudschaal stood and thanked the council for the continued efforts in reducing the budget. Roger also thanked the congregation. Last year through June we received \$58,158.22 in offerings and this year we have received \$77,395.55. Thank you to the congregation for stepping up to help support the higher costs and budget needed to keep Faith UCC running smoothly.

Worship service was held in fellowship hall due to the other furnace/AC not working. We currently have two units not performing. Ryan Smith quoted to replace all three units at \$27,000 but with the Black Hills rebate would be \$26,400 for all materials, labor and tax.

Steve Hill asked the trustees to confirm if/when new units are installed that we gain air flow to the kitchen.

Motion to approve budget by Kathy Westendorf, seconded by Dave Kirchhoff.

Motion to adjourn by Jerry Lahmann seconded by Brenda Shinstine.

These minutes have not yet been approved by Council



, To all our Church Family:

We want to thank everyone who remembered us with cards, gifts, and flowers for our 60th wedding anniversary. It was a very joyful day. We want to thank you for joining us for refreshments after the worship service. We have so very much to be thanks for.

May God Bless all of you.

~Jerry and Marlene~

50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration

We will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, August 12th from 3:00 pm at the Meadowbrook Country Club, 716 West 6th St., Sumner, IA. Please join us for the celebration.

Ken & Juanita Mohlis

Congratulations!

Tripoli Days Activities

TRIPOLI DAYS LUNCHEON

On Saturday, August 5, Faith UCC will be hosting the Tripoli Days Luncheon following the parade until 1:00 pm. Menu : sliced pork loin, beef burger on bun, potato salad, potato chips, baked bean, pies, desserts, and beverages.

Adults: \$10.00; Children 10 & under: \$6.00; Preschool & under : Free

Take outs available. Everyone Welcome!!!

COMMUNITY WORSHIP

The Tripoli Days Community Worship will be held at Grace Lutheran Church on Sunday, August 6 at 9:00 am. All are welcome to attend!

Address/Telephone/Email Updates

In an effort to verify the church office has current and accurate contact information for Faith UCC members, we are asking for your assistance. Please review your information in the 2018 directory for accuracy. Have you dropped your landline? Have a new cell phone number? Updated to a new email address? Please contact the office with any corrections/additions. If there is any information that you do not want shared with your fellow members, please drop a note or email to the church office stating your wishes. We appreciate your assistance in maintaining accurate records. As soon as all information is verified, a new member listing will be made available to our members.

**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS AND
SUMMER DAY CAMP END-OF-SEASON CELEBRATION**



We hope you will join us on Sunday, August 27, as we celebrate the ending of the 2023 Faith UCC Summer Day Camp! During worship we will give thanks for the teachers and students who have brought wonderful energy and fun to our campus and we will also have a blessing of the backpacks/computer bags/tablets or anything else used by students/teachers/school administrators and staff.

Following worship, all are invited to join us for food and fun! There will be a variety of games set up outside. We will be serving grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, salads, and desserts. If you would like to bring a side dish but aren't certain what to make, there are ideas posted on a bulletin board in the narthex.

Outreach

LifeServe Blood Center

Faith UCC hosted a blood drive on June 29th. We registered 9 donors and collected 9 units, saving/sustaining the lives of 27 people!! Way to go!

Friends of the Family

Friends of the Family is reaching out to share some exciting opportunities to make an impact in our community through volunteerism. Contact Madison Gaffney at madi-son@fofia.org or 319-576-2232 to learn more about volunteering for Friends of the

Friendship Gathering
Wednesday, August 16 at 7 pm
St. John Lutheran Church Parish Hall—Sumner Iowa

You are invited to join us for an evening of music with the Andregg Family. They will be playing bluegrass, gospel along with some old time classic country music. Refreshments will be served and there will be door prizes.

All are invited—please join us.

August Birthdays

August 1	Jean Ranard
August 3	Shawntelle Moore Ashley Penrod Marshall Dillon
August 8	Carol Brandt
August 9	Tyler Reeves
August 10	Hannah Buchholz Scott Behn
August 11	Tad Chapin
August 12	Jacob Martin
August 16	Chad Bucholz
August 21	Leland Timmerman
August 29	Justine Liddle Aria Blessing
August 30	Eli Bahrenfuse

Faith United Church of Christ Finances

General Fund 2023

	<u>July</u>	<u>Budget*</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Offerings	July numbers not available at time		
Expenses	of printing		

*Council approved budget not yet approved by congregation

Cemetery Operations Fund 2023

June

Portfolio Value	\$57,246.31
Checking Account Balance	438.35
Savings Account Balance	<u>6,043.80</u>
TOTAL CEMETERY FUND	\$63,769.20

Worship by the numbers...

	<u>In-person Attendance</u>	<u>Online Attendance</u>	<u>Monetary Gifts</u>
July 2	51	17	\$1,729.00
July 9	51	19	\$2,096.62
July 16	71	N/A	\$1,845.25
July 23	48	15	\$2,368.26
July 30	54	10	\$2,752.00

August Anniversaries

August 1	Jeremy & Adella Nelson
August 5	Roger & Beth Goudschaal
August 13	Ken & Juanita Mohlis
August 14	Mike & Kathy Westendorf
August 24	Bob & Donna Sassman
August 25	Brad & Leanne Buchholz
August 27	Clark & Kathleen Snelling
August 29	Justine & David Liddle
August 31	Kara & Conrad Marsh

Church Council

President Jerry Lahmann
 Vice President Eli Bahrenfuse
 Recorder Traci Bahrenfuse

Elders

Beth Goudschaal (Head Elder)
 Traci Bahrenfuse
 Kara Marsh
 Vicki Oleson
 Bonnie Travers
 Kathy Westendorf

Trustees

Conrad Marsh (Head Trustee)
 Eli Bahrenfuse
 Dave Kirchhoff
 Jerry Lahmann
 Brenda Shinstine

Faith UCC Staff

Pastor	Rev. Marilyn Sargent
Admin. Assistant	Barb Rich
Financial Secretary	Roger Goudschaal
Treasurer	Barb Hill
Custodian	Lisa Chapin
Director of Music	Beth Goudschaal
Musicians	June Buhr Phoebe Drape Dawn Holm Mary Jo Rathe